

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EUR-12 L-03 H-01 DHA-02 SCA-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 PPT-01 SSO-00 INRE-00
/054 W

-----041215Z 066161 /15

O 041045Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9222

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (MEYERS, LAWRENCE KAYS)

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF ALLEGED AMCIT MERCENARY

REF: STATE 000026

1. APPRECIATE AUTHORITY (REFTEL) TO TRAVEL TO FRANCISTOWN TO PROCESS MEYERS. REPEATED EFFORTS TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH MEYERS BY PHONE OR THROUGH GOB INTERMEDIARY HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. FRANCISTOWN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER NOT WILLING TO PERMIT MEYERS TO BE BROUGHT FROM PRISON TO HIS OFFICE FOR PHONE CALL WITHOUT ITS HAVING BEEN ARRANGED DIRECTLY BY OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. SECRETARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PROMISED EMBOFF JANUARY 3 THAT CALL WOULD BE ARRANGED ASAP. WE ARE DELAYING CHARTER TO FRANCISTOWN UNTIL WE ARE CERTAIN THAT ALL GOB AND EMBASSY REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. WE INTEND BRINGING HIM TO GABORONE ON SAME PLANE

AND PROMPTLY REPATRIATE.

2. MEANWHILE, AMERICAN RESIDENT OF FRANCISTOWN TELEPHONED EMBASSY MORNING OF JANUARY 4 TO SAY THAT HE HAD SEEN MEYERS AT GRAND HOTEL JANUARY 3. POLICE HAD BROUGHT MEYERS THERE TO COLLECT BELONGINGS AND TO BE "INTER-

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VIEWED" BY BOTSWANA JOURNALIST". ACCORDING TO THIS AMERICAN SOURCE, MEYERS OVERHEARD HIM SPEAKING AND MANAGED TO GET MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN THROUGH THE "JOURNALIST". MEYERS' MESSAGE WAS THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO CALL EMBASSY AND IS WORRIED BY POLICE ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS.

3. MEYERS WANTS PARENTS NOTIFIED THAT HE IS WELL; HE SAYS THEY ARE IN BAD HEALTH AND WILL WORRY IF THEY READ ABOUT ARREST IN U.S. PRESS. OUR AMERICAN CONTACT DID NOT GET PARENTS' NAMES BUT GOT THEIR ADDRESS: 3430 TOULON COURT, RIVERSIDE DRIVE, CALIFORNIA. MEYERS ALSO ASKED THAT SHOWN MEYERS BE NOTIFIED (RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN), C/O BETH MEYERS, 106 SHERMAN DRIVE, BENICIA, CALIFORNIA.

4. ANOTHER PHOTO OF MEYERS APPEARS ON FRONT PAGE OF JANUARY 4 BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS ALONG WITH STORY ABOUT 20-YEAR OLD BRITISH CITIZEN BEING HELD IN FRANCISTOWN AFTER "DESERTING FROM RHODESIAN ARMY". BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER CALLED EMBOFF MORNING JANUARY 4 TO ASK ABOUT MEYER'S STATUS AND TO SAY THAT HIGH COMMISSION HAD NOT BEEN NOTIFIED OF BRITON'S ARREST WHICH TOOK PLACE "BEFORE CHRISTMAS". SUCH GOB BEHAVIOR (E.G. FAILURE TO UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES BY NOTIFYING EMBASSY OF THE ARREST OF FOREIGN NATIONAL) IS UNPRECEDENTED IN HIGH COMMISSION'S AND OUR OWN EXPERIENCE.

5. WE PLAN TO SEND NOTE TO MINEXTAFF REMINDING GOB OF ITS OBLIGATION UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION OF ARREST AND PROMPT CONSULAR ACCESS.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: CASC, (MEYERS, LAWRENCE KAYS)
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